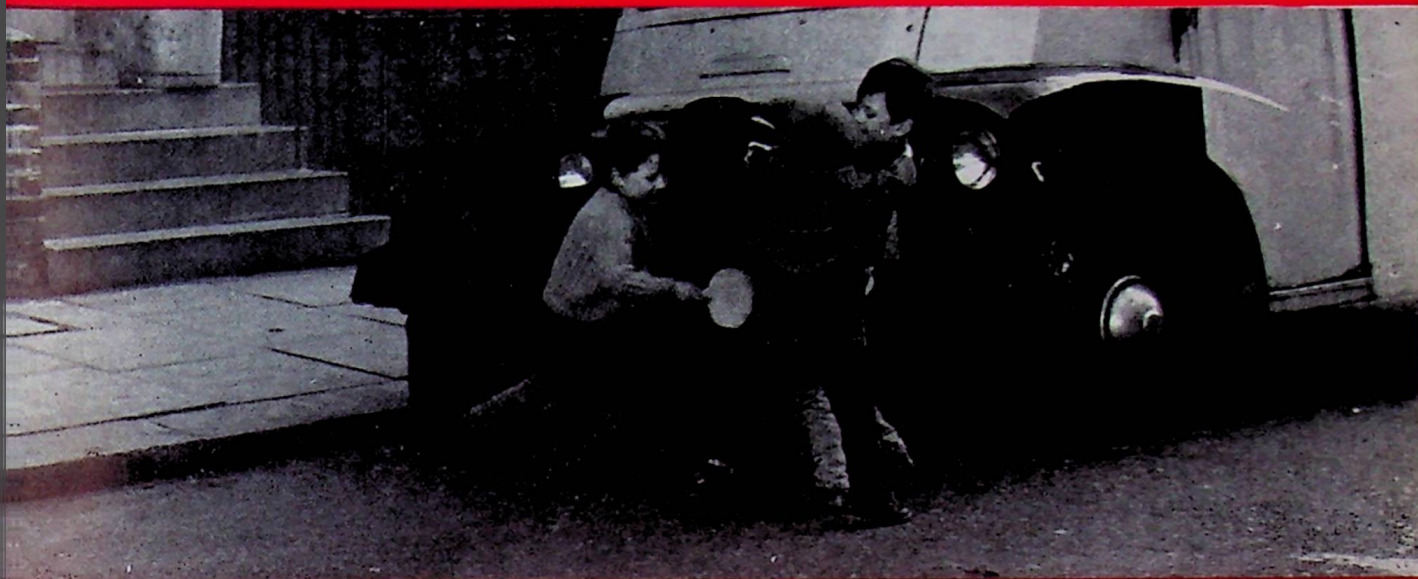


# point three

MARCH 1969

one shilling



## NOTTING HILL AND THE WASTED YEARS

The first of two articles by Chris Holmes describing the area and some of the problems caused by public indifference appears on page 50.

**POINT THREE** is the  
monthly magazine  
of Toc H



*Toc H members accept a four-fold commitment: 1. to build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man; 2. to give personal service; 3. to find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others; 4. to work for the building of that better world which has been called the Kingdom of God. This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points—to think fairly.*

**March 1969**

Cover photos by Bob Broeder

**APRIL FOOL'S  
COMPETITION**

(see page 55)

EDITOR Ken Prideaux-Brune  
ASSOC. EDITOR C. Huw Gibbs  
ADVERTISING Stan Waters  
Arthur Wheeler & Co.  
St. Stephen's House,  
Victoria Embankment,  
LONDON S.W.1.  
01-839 6470

**point three**

Editorial Office, 41 Trinity Square,  
London E.C.3. 01-709 0472

Letters and articles are welcomed but the opinions expressed therein are not  
necessarily those of the Toc H Movement



# viewpoint

## just how wishy-washy can we be?

Toc H is a Movement open to all. It has always, and rightly, prided itself on its concern to bring within its ranks as wide a mixture of people as possible. In order that we may retain this mixture, in order that we may remain open to people of every political viewpoint, it has been clearly understood from the very beginning that, while individual members may, some might say should, have strong political views, the Movement as a whole can never have a point of view on any political issue. This is the theory and it is a theory which has been upheld in several battles in our past history. Even so I wonder just how realistic a theory it really is.

Perhaps in part it's a question of how one defines the word "political" in this context. Certainly it would be wrong for Toc H as a Movement to express permanent support for any one of the political parties: but politics, like religion, is as wide as life itself. There are political issues, for instance the question of housing or the question of aid to the underdeveloped world, on which, I would have thought, we could hardly avoid having a point of view. Certainly over the question of *how* the homeless are to be housed, or *how* the world's poor are to be helped, there may be room for a great many different points of view. But politics is concerned with more than mere mechanics and on the basic moral issues there is surely room for only one view if we are to remain true to the principles for which we claim to stand.

The question is raised in its starkest form today over the issue of race relations. Here again there are "mechanical" questions to which many different answers are possible, but there are also basic issues of human relations on which, if the Four Points mean anything at all, I would have thought that our views must be clear and united.

Do we really believe what we say about loving widely, about "the brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God", about breaking

down the barriers that divide man from man, or are these merely comforting, sentimental noises, "which give delight and hurt not", which have no connection with the real world in which we live out our lives? Because if we do believe in these principles we are committed to treat all men, whatever their colour and however different their customs and traditions, as fellow human beings. We are committed to fighting the prejudice latent in ourselves and to exposing the half-truths which seek to confirm prejudice in others. We can have no truck with emotive nonsense about "undermining the traditional British way of life" (whatever that means). We must not merely accept but welcome the fact that we now live in a multi-racial society, seeing in it possibilities for the enrichment of all our lives.

This, obviously, is only a personal view: but the more I think about it the clearer it seems. Either we spell out quite straightforwardly where we stand on the race relations issue or else we admit that we regard the Four Points as so vague as to be meaningless. Just how wishy-washy can we be?

This doesn't mean that I am suggesting any kind of a witch hunt. I hope Toc H membership will continue to be open to all for herein lies its strength. There is no room for membership tests, whether credal or political, in Toc H. What I do believe is that we need to accept the same tension in the political field (using the word "political" in the broad sense in which I have used it above) that we have always accepted in the religious field. Toc H has always welcomed into membership many who would not call themselves Christians while at the same time being quite clear about the Christian basis of the Movement. Equally I believe we can continue to welcome people whatever their views on political or social issues but we can nonetheless make it quite clear where Toc H itself stands on the racial issue.

K.P.-B.



Dr. John Stansfeld

by R. L. Bradley (a former member of the  
Central Executive)

# the doctor's teaching

I suppose Tubby's "Verba" are so numerous that I ought not to have been surprised to stumble across the following:

## PREPARATION FOR EACH DAY

**TAKE** *one sin which wounds your brothers,*

**LIFT** *your heart in one thanksgiving,*

**BREAK** *from self and pray for others,*

**GIVE** *one pledge towards true living.*

Considering that the quotation is dated 1936 and that Tubby must have written it at least as long ago as that, I suspect that only the most avid reader of Toc H literature will recognise it and that Tubby himself may scarcely remember it—indeed may not be too deeply concerned if the modest quartet is lost in the limbo of a rapidly receding past. For although the religious content is unexceptionable the lines can hardly claim a lasting place in the pages of the Oxford (or any other) Book of English Verse.

I found them in a parish magazine. The date is May 1936 and the parish is Spelsbury in Oxfordshire. But the May 1936 issue of the parish magazine is only one of a monthly series dating from December 1929 to November 1939. Their author was one Canon John Stansfeld, Doctor of Medicine, ordained priest in the Church of England, founder of the Oxford Medical Mission (now the Oxford and Bermondsey Club), vicar of St. Ebbe's in Oxford, missionary to East Africa,

and finally vicar of the parish of Spelsbury in Oxfordshire where at the age of 88 he died. Thus the bare record of the man, filled out and illuminated by Barclay Baron in his biography of *The Doctor*. Let him who has not read Barkis' work forthwith purloin his neighbour's copy and forget to return it. For it is the story of a saint, so well told that he who has not done so should run that he may read. "In Stansfeld", wrote another of his disciples, "you had a completely integrated person, with his foibles and quirks, but a perfect illustration of the power of religion to sieze, permeate and possess a man."

This then was the old doctor/vicar who ministered in equal doses to the physical and spiritual needs of his people, rubbing in (often literally) The Teaching (he always came back to "The Teaching") at his personal visits and through his monthly letters in the parish magazine. Each letter is followed by the rest of the monthly entries, a miscellany, as is the way of parish magazines, of notices, records of confirmations and baptisms, parish meetings, always the list of scripture readings for the month, a sly (or sometimes very direct) admonition here, an unstinted word of praise there, and so on. I wonder why I find them so intriguing. They can claim no literary merit, they scarcely touch on the weightier problems of the day, they abound in quotations which vary from the good to the blatantly banal, and they are nothing if not unblushingly obvious. But somehow these letters "get" you, brushing aside the flotsam



of debate and doubt and coming right through to the old, simple, direct and lasting verities. And they are fun: they make you chuckle; and the wise old Doctor knew the value of a chuckle as one of the basic ingredients in his prescription for the good life.

Here then are a few extracts, culled haphazardly from some of the monthly letters. The first one is an expansion of Tubby's short verse.

*My dear Friends—You know what this means—uphill instead of downhill. If we are going downhill we always do one thing—we curse someone else.*

*But it is pleasanter to speak of the uphill climb. The path uphill is hard and narrow and straight. Our Lord Himself has climbed this path and He is with us at every upward step.*

*A nicely painted scarecrow, labelled "Just be good" invites us to take a side path. This seems good enough for us and suits our pride, but we lose our way and the wooden figure seems to mock us and has no power to help us.*

*When we are on the Lord's way we have a talk with Him before each day's climb. Then He cuts out the sin which wounds our brothers—He lifts our hearts in thanksgiving—He takes us out of our little selves and makes us pray for others.*

*"Keep close to Me," He says, "and keep close to each other." Five members of the Church joined us in leadership during Holy Week and the way already is lighter.*

★

*Broken Glass—A stupid boy smashed a glass bottle in the Churchyard and a girl's foot was severely cut. That boy needs a good stick!*

★

*The Admiral met Charles Tigg coming from Dytchley. Charles was carrying an armful of wild flowers with the roots. "Where did you get those from?" "I just dug 'em up in the woods," said Charles. "You are a mean and silly ass," said the Admiral, "now we shall be shut out from Dytchley altogether. Last Winter you ruined the Holly trees when you stole the berries. I will ask the Keepers to shoot you and we will have a thanksgiving over your departure."*

★

*Wanted—Oil cloth for floor of Hermitage. Also chairs. Must be cheap.*

★

*Notes for the Parish Magazine—The Editor will welcome any notes and perhaps he will put them in. We applied to a great Theological College but not a man was equal to the job.*

★

*To everyman there openeth*

*A high way and a low*

*And every man decideth*

*The way his soul shall go.*

*The High Way leads to God and His Kingdom,*

*and the folks who are treading the Way (you and I know some) bring light and happiness to our parish.*

★

*Jackdaws—The Church Council decided to abolish the jackdaws, but no one knew how.*

★

*Whitsun Farthings—Every child is asked to give at least one farthing on Whitsun Day for the poor parishes of the Diocese.*

★

*The sins which you do in two and two  
You must answer: one by one.*

★

*Politeness is like an air cushion. There may be nothing in it, but it eases the jolt wonderfully.*

★

*Charles Tigg met the Admiral and he said he didn't believe in the 'Groups.' "Look at me," said Charles, "What's wrong with me? If I don't go to Church or the Groups I'm alright." "I suppose there may be some good in you somewhere," said the Admiral, "but what good are you to anybody? You just mark time and eat food until you are buried."*

★

*At Christmas we recall the biggest event of the world. The Christ child is born. We ourselves are born like other animals, but at Christmas we learn how the Christ life is grafted into our life making us sons of God and possessors of the Kingdom.*

*The choice is for all of us. We can "keep ourselves to ourselves" . . . or we can learn wholesome brotherhood as part of the great family of God. We have many fine opportunities for coming together—the Women's Institute, the Men's Club, working parties, Cubs, Scouts, Brownies, etc., and above all, and for all, the Church. Every society is planned to bring us nearer God and nearer to each other. Charles Tigg won't join anything.*

★

These are just a few of the many extracts which might be culled from those unlettered pages, written or quoted by the Doctor for his humble villagers and seeking, I suspect, no wider publicity. They are dated, obvious, even naive. You might call them the awkward squad if you fell them in side by side with their more polished literary companions, which bid us to study seriously the problems of today so that our service may be the better geared to modern needs. But the Doctor's little exhortations, the direct and simple Teaching, the ingenuous rhymes and saws and couplets, and even the Admiral's running encounter with Charles Tigg may be held worthy of a place in the ranks of their more sophisticated comrades in the pages of *Point Three*.





## personality point

**Robert Gibson.** We send best wishes to the Rev. Robert Gibson and his family on their removal from Greenwich to Guisborough, Yorks. As Acting Vicar at All Hallows, Robert quickly became a familiar figure at Toc H Headquarters where his great capacity for friendship was much appreciated. His induction at St. Nicholas, Guisborough takes place on Friday, March 14.

## notices

**The North Wales Summer School** takes place at Bangor July 18—25. Enquiries to Rev. John Jones, Bryn Hyfryd, Trofath, Abergele, Denbighshire.

**The World Chain of Light, 1969,** will start at Talbot House, Poperinge, on Thursday, December 11.

**Note these dates!** June 20—21 1970. This is the weekend of the next National Festival in London.

**Oberammergau 1970.** In view of the fact that all four of the parties originally arranged are now full and have waiting lists, two more have been booked to leave London on June 27 and August 2 respectively. The latter date has been chosen particularly with school teachers in mind. Full details can be

obtained from the South East Regional Office, Crutched Friars House, London, E.C.3. A stamped addressed envelope would be appreciated.

**Personal Accident and Public Liability Insurance.** Headquarters have paid the full annual premium due on January 1 last and to make sure that their members are covered for the current year will Branches enrolled under the scheme please remit to the Finance Secretary at Headquarters, without delay, their portion of this premium which is now 2/- per person. Any Branches wishing to join the scheme should apply to Headquarters without delay with a remittance at the rate of 2/- per member. Details of the benefits will be sent in return.

**Alison House.** Leaders for the Toc H Family Holiday weeks at Alison House will be as follows:

July 26—	"An Introduction to Landscape Painting".
August 2	Tutor: Sheila Fitzgerald
	Leaders: Vera Harley and Kathleen Owen
August 2—9	Johnnie and Mollie MacMillan
August 9—16	Roland and Doreen Gill
August 16—23	Marjorie and Archie Berry
August 23—30	Michael and Frances Bullock
August 30—September 6	Bob and Margery Knight
Applications to: Toc H Women's Association, 15 Trinity Square, London, E.C.3.	

## welcome point

The following Branches elected new members during January:

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| 13—Wigmore (W.A.).  | 11—Chalfonts       |
| 8—Edgmond (Joint)   | 7—Lampeter (Joint) |
| 6—Cromer (W.A.).  | 5—R.H.H.I. (W.A.). |
| 3—Alston, Charlton, Coleorton, Heathfield, Waveney (W.A.).  |                    |
| 2—Acklam (W.A.), Borough Green, Edinburgh (W.A.), Glemsford, Hartley Wintney (W.A.), Hednesford, Hemel Hempstead (W.A.), Horncastle, Minster-in-Sheppey (W.A.), Netheravon (W.A.), Ramsgate (W.A.), South Western Area (W.A.), Tunbridge Wells.   |                    |
| 1—Ashford (W.A.), Bletchley, Bognor Regis (W.A.), Bridgwater (W.A.), Broadways, Central, Chichester, Clapham (W.A.), Coney Hall, Conway, Cosby, Denton, Fletton & Stanground, Herne Bay, Horton Kirby, Hythe, Jedburgh, Kendal (W.A.), Keynsham, Laceby, Levenshulme (Joint), Lindley, Llanarmon-yn-Iâl, Llanllwch, Peterborough, Pickhurst Green, Porlock, Putney, Rushden Royal (W.A.), Sanderstead, St. John's (Tunbridge Wells) (W.A.), Seal, Sevenoaks, Shirehampton (W.A.), Streatham (W.A.), Torquay, Tottenham, Trowbridge, Uxbridge, Wimborne. |                    |

**129** new members were elected during January, to whom we extend a warm welcome.



# Toc H gives a party for lepers in Lesotho

One of the most demanding and important jobs undertaken by the recently formed Khatsong Toc H group in Maseru, Lesotho, is at the Botsabelo leper settlement. Alec Churcher, who is at present visiting southern Africa, on behalf of "Help the Aged" wrote of his visit to Maseru in a recent letter to the International Office.

"I did not meet the Toc H group as a whole but did meet most of the members individually. They are doing excellent work at Botsabelo, the leper settlement just outside Maseru, which is a quite dreadful place. I have seen leper colonies in a number of parts of the world but only one other to touch this for squalor and neglect. 'Help the Aged' is already giving some help to the old, miserable, burnt-out cases and I hope to be able to get them to increase this. But the whole approach to the problem is antiquated in the extreme. The huts in which the lepers live are the original huts used by the British troops in Bloemfontein during the Boer War. In the winter, when there is a lot of snow and it is very cold indeed, there is no heating of any kind. There are some beds, but most sleep on the ground. They are issued with mealie meal etc. and cook their own meals. At the time of my visit there was no medical staff (not even a medical orderly) on duty. I got pretty worked up about all this and went to see all sorts of folk. The fact is that leprosy is not, numerically, the main health problem. Malnutrition and the diseases arising from it, including TB, present a much greater problem. Resources in this very poor country are sorely limited and leprosy is not high on their list of priorities. Meanwhile the plight of the 300 men, women and children at Botsabelo is something I shan't easily forget".

It's always exciting to receive good clear photographs, especially from overseas Branches, and these two show the scope and complexity of the work undertaken at Maseru.



The man with a cigarette is Solomon Crutse, Chairman of Khatsong group and a former member of Orlando Branch, Jo'burg. We do not know the man in the foreground.

*Photo: Dan. T. Tlekettle.*

Toc H presented the Leper Settlement with the mugs in this picture to replace badly chipped and unusable ones. The lady with the large hat is Janet Maude, a Women's Association member

*Photo: Dan. T. Tlekettle.*





# shavington hits "bull's-eye" for recruiting

During Club Week, the members of Shavington Toc H Boys' club tried to beat the world marathon darts record of 712,000 points in 24 hours—they failed narrowly after 25 hours with 682,000 points.

*Photo: The Crewe Chronicle.*





**Last month we described how one Branch had completed two years of successful recruiting. That Branch was Shavington and here Branch secretary Cyril Carrier and Branch chairman Jim Jobson explain their methods.**

Interest has been expressed in the fact that in the past two years Shavington Branch has been able to increase its membership from 14 to 25 and also its impact on the local community. It has been suggested that the methods adopted to achieve this might be used by other Branches with equal success. We therefore endeavour to put down on paper what we have been doing.

For about nine years prior to 1967 our membership fell from 25 to 14. At the approach of Autumn 1966 we decided that unless something was done to stem this drift we should stagnate and disappear just as we had seen other Branches do.

Quite a number of our members knew people they thought might be interested, but, as always, the difficulty was to get them along to their first meeting. From this problem emerged the idea of formulating our programme to a new pattern in so far as visiting speakers were concerned. First we needed to know what particular interest our "prospective member" had, and once in possession of this information we set out to find someone who would come along and talk on that subject.

When the programme was duly printed our "contact man" approached his "prospect" with "Here's our latest programme—look, this bloke's talking about "amateur radio"—don't you reckon to know a bit about this? Why not come along and see whether he knows any more than you do?" The other visiting speakers on the programme were carefully chosen to cover subjects of general

interest which might appeal to outsiders. Our maxim being that if we could once get them into our room to a meeting we had more than half won our cause and the Branch would be on its mettle to provide the right atmosphere within the meeting.

In the early part of 1967 our Chairman was approached by an acquaintance of his who was interested in painting. Apparently three or four others too were anxious to find out what was the potential in the village for the formation of an Art Group, and they wondered whether Toc H would allow them the use of its rooms to hold an exhibition to which local people would be invited to submit paintings. At first we were not very enthusiastic but we did arrange for our rooms to be available to them for a week in June and we combined it with a Handicrafts section, mainly because we thought there would not be enough paintings to make a show. Then we saw the light: here, surely, the opportunity we had been looking for was being thrust upon us—an opportunity to get people into our room and for us to get alongside them. All we needed to do was to add a table with the Lamp, current programmes, Toc H literature etc. and have a member (or members) present willing and able to explain Toc H in Shavington to anyone showing the slightest interest.

#### **Four Exhibitions**

This first exhibition was a real success, well over 100 paintings were exhibited, the four art enthusiasts found sufficient interested people to form their Art Group, we made our contacts, and although no charge was made for admission, voluntary donations during the week contributed over £25 to the Family Purse.

The year 1968 was the 21st year of Toc H in Shavington and we decided that to mark the occasion we would arrange further exhibitions etc. with the primary object of getting alongside people and further increasing our membership. This we did with an exhibition of Floral Art (organised by our Chairman's wife and a few of her Flower Club friends), a Coffee Evening (given by our Treasurer and

### **When Men were Men**

*On a rock hard ground after an international rugby trial recently, the Captain of the English side was heard to remark: "that team would have lost to Toc H on a bad night." This may not mean much today, although Toc H Manchester still has a rugby club, but 40 years ago the Toc H (London) Rugby Club had 150 members and fielded five teams every weekend. The newspapers of the day referred to them as "that up and coming team."*

*But alas, they've upped and gone and there remains only a pleasant memory of bloody knees, sweating bodies, loud choruses and the smell of embrocation.*



his wife at their home), an exhibition of Paintings (by the now flourishing Art Group), a Horticultural Show (organised by one of our members who had been involved in this sort of thing before), a Model and Craft Exhibition (organised by another member and supported by a local Model Engineering Society) and finally an Autumn Exhibition of 1968 Paintings (very well staged by the Art Group). At each of these events we had our Toc H corner and our members on the lookout for likely contacts.

All these events were very well supported by the public and increased the goodwill which already existed in the village towards the Branch. We also made our contacts and financially the nett gain to Toc H was in the region of £70: this latter was of secondary importance, although welcome.

#### Four Branch priorities

We are the first to admit that we are extremely fortunate in having rooms which are suitable for staging the events mentioned, but feel that even where a Branch's own meeting place is not suitable, it should be possible in many cases to find a suitable room in the locality and, as we have illustrated, the financial income would be sufficient to cover any cost involved.

With regard to the organising of the events—a Model society of one sort or another is to be found in most districts. It is fairly certain that some members' wives are connected with Women's Institute, Townswomen's Guild or Flower Club, in which case there will doubtless be some interest in handicrafts, floral art or what have you, and our experience has been that people are only too ready to put on a display if approached. It is also possible that

there are budding artists in other districts who would welcome an opportunity to exhibit what they can do.

Having obtained the co-operation of one or more of the afore-mentioned, the important points for the Branch are:—

1. To ensure the provision of all help required in the preparation of the room etc.
2. To take charge of the publicity for the event and make sure this is done well.
3. To have members on duty during the event who not only know their Toc H but are willing to endeavour to put it over to contacts.
4. To ensure that their current programme is an interesting one and that copies are available, along with copies of *Point Three* and other Toc H literature and leaflets.

We realise that we must not become at all complacent about our successes and our object, now that we have enrolled additional members, is to ensure that we make use of their talents. To this end we have already commenced a survey of the village with regard to the number of blind, infirm, elderly, housebound and lonely people, and when this survey is complete it is our intention to assess any need which is apparent and then endeavour to provide the service deemed necessary. We feel sure that if we establish that any need exists, we can count on a ready practical expression of the goodwill already engendered with the village community.

We are sure that other Branches have equally good and better methods of recruitment etc. than we have described and we would be delighted to hear of them in order to explore their possibilities in our situation. On the other hand, if any Branch feels that they can usefully employ our methods and wish for further detailed information, we shall be happy to do our utmost to help.

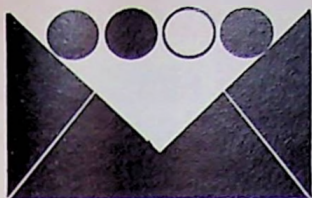
## obituary

#### We regret to announce the death of the following members:

**In September:** Reginald Minter (East London Area). **In October:** W. Horace Moore (Netherton), Beatrice Plestor (Alton). **In November:** Amy Davies (Knowle), Jessie Williams (Ilford & Seven Kings). **In December:** Ellen Anderson (Pierremont), Arthur C. Blake (Nailsea), Arthur A. J. Colton (Bletchley), the Rev. H. Devis (Johannesburg), S. Elsie Douglas (Maghull Station), William T. Edwards (East London Area), Percy Faulkner (Buckingham), Edward A. Franklin (Margate), Janet E. Grenville (Sprowston), E. Molly Kendall (St. Ives), Frederick E. Planton (Thurrock), Thomas S. M. Russell (Exmouth), Robert Smith (Kidderminster), Roy Smith (Stoke-on-Trent), John Stevens (Gravesend), Sally Newitt (Margate), Winifred K. West (Carshalton & Wallington). **In January:** Arthur H. Ager (Looe), Albert Baxter (Hartley Wintney), Nellie Bullivant (Peterborough), J. Douglas Guy (Chippenham), Alfred Roake (Bexhill), Ivor F. Rundle (St. Just), John W. Shelton (Ayton). **In February:** The Rt. Rev. Michael Coleman (Pender Island, B.C.).

#### We give thanks for their lives.





---

Letters are welcomed. But the Editor reserves the right to use extracts as space permits.

---

### Point Three and Insight

Now that I read *Point Three* from a different standpoint, I want to tell you that I think it a really excellent publication. It gives a terrific insight into social problems in England and how Toc H fits in, and gives me ideas for here . . . I'm hoarding all my copies of the magazine because I think they are going to be very useful quite soon. One of Geoff Brand's volunteers has come down to Cape Town, and between us we hope to have a group going soon. He and I have had an initial meeting to lay plans, and are having another with three others and the Area Chairman. Geoff and I hope to run a project like the Grange Farm one (the WRVS home in Essex) in July . . .

I'm greatly looking forward to teaching again after 18 months. In fact I'm quite excited about this year altogether, with teaching, and Toc H to start, and moving into a flat with two friends shortly. If the two Toc H ideas come off it will be wonderful . . .

When you look at British Toc H from the outside, you see that there is a tremendous amount going on. From the inside we often get down-hearted and frustrated by slow developments, but we mustn't, we work for the organisation with the finest principles in the world—active Christianity, rather than the passive form in most churches.

*Susan Gow* *Cape Town*  
*Former member of Projects Staff,*  
*London.*

---

### Falling membership

Having noted the remarks made by Cyril Cattell in your January issue, I write as a District secretary and Branch officer. When is Toc H going to adopt a simple approach, especially to cut out a lot of the red tape and unnecessary paper work which exists at present? Is it to be wondered at that the weaker Branches give up in despair when there are other movements as good as Toc H, giving fellowship and offering service? If only Branches were encouraged to

work for good fellowship through good meetings, and to undertake more often corporate service in combination with other organisations, making it less expensive during the present difficult times.

All Branches have different approaches to young people, some are very successful. Commuting members of the community are very difficult to get hold of as they arrive home fairly late and usually wish to stay there. There is far too much stuffiness and not enough light-hearted approach in the Movement as a whole.

*Jim Hazell*

*Hartley Wintney*

The annual headline "Branch figures still falling" has once again caused me a great deal of consternation, coupled with irritation. To my mind the new "low" in membership figures is a clear indication that if we do not do something about it—and quite quickly—Toc H will be no more by the turn of the century . . .

Where I think we are going wrong is a combination of the following:

1. Many Branches have not moved with the Movement. A casual get-together once a week or fortnight for a cup of tea and "Light" and an odd jumble sale can hardly be described as "leaping with joy".
2. More members than care to admit it are embarrassed or ignorant when asked "What is Toc H?" There is a peculiar feeling of belonging to an organisation whose purpose is not at all clear to them.
3. A great lack of organisation. Being informal doesn't mean being disorganised. A full and varied Branch programme, planned months ahead, is essential.
4. Non-adaptability. Sticking to the same old jobs (though worthwhile) and the same kind of programme year after year will not attract the enthusiastic new men and women who are essential to the Movement.
5. Isolation. Inter-Branch visiting, meeting new faces, exchanging ideas, renewing friendships, is not undertaken

by as many Branches as we would like to think.

6. Bad organisation of staff—our nearest staff man lives 80 miles away (120 miles from Penzance).

Right, you say, you've told me what's wrong, but what about putting it right? Well, here goes.

Firstly, instil in members the belief that Toc H is the finest organisation in the world, and let's have some of that gaiety your editorial referred to: Toc H is not an organisation of do-gooders raising money for charity. It is really a group of men and women trying to set an example of how to love God and love their neighbours in the friendliest, sincerest and most unserious manner possible. Secondly, District Teams as they are now should be quietly put out to grass. Rather let's have a regular get-together of Branches on an organised basis, without too much business. Thirdly, a full programme of activities (at least 25% of regular meetings outside the Branch room) should be concocted by each Branch (ideas from other Branches will help). Fourthly, if Toc H is at present unable to finance additional staff (and to get the right men and women the salaries must be attractive) then the most important man in each District must be the District Pilot, who should be able to get around regularly to the other Branches in the District. Finally, better press relationships must be encouraged.

*Les Rendell*

*St. Austell*

### Outrageous!

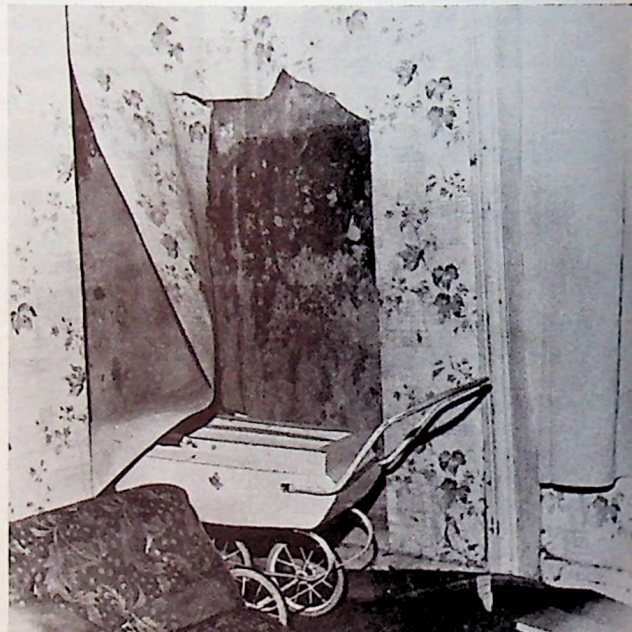
Are you disgusted, steamed up, down-hearted, overjoyed, under the weather with us, your Branch, or Toc H in general? Then tell us about it—but keep your letters short.



The experiment at Mark I, Notting Hill, is an important and potentially significant attempt by Toc H to make a real contribution to the needs of an "inner city" area. In this article Chris Holmes, the Warden of the Mark, describes the area and the background to the work. Next month he will write in more detail about what he's trying to do at the Mark.

# THIS IS

photographs by Bob Broeder





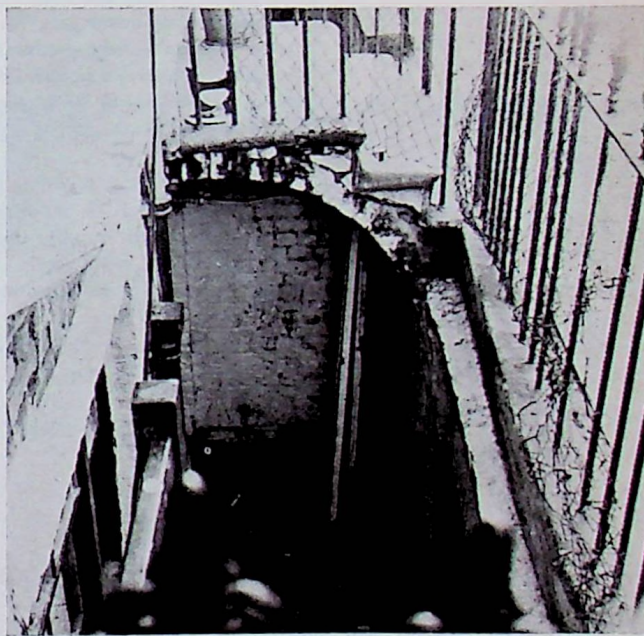
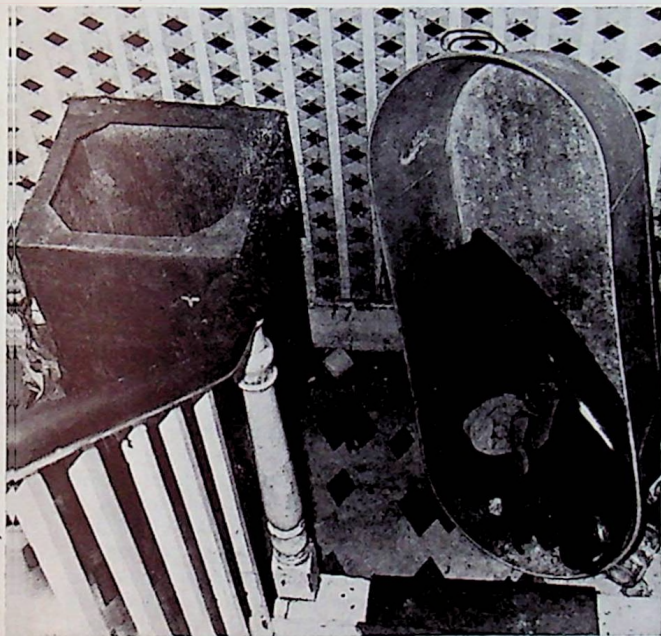


"In one dark room I found a family of nine persons, the father ill with pleuritis" . . . . "there are seven in the family. The rent is £7 5s. a week. Two little girls share their parents bed and a baby sleeps in the same room. The cooker is in a cupboard on the landing and the bathroom is too decrepit for use. One of the girls has measles. The boy suffers from a chest complaint." Those two comments both describe the conditions in Notting Hill: the first was written by the Medical Officer of Health in 1856, the second in 1956. Between those dates London flourished and grew, elegant and expensive buildings sprang up across the city, yet only two miles from the centre of the metropolis the problems of the poor were forgotten.

*continued overleaf*

# NOTTING HILL

*The notice above the door reads: "The people declare war on the Council." Chris Holmes talking to a mother whose protest takes the form of claiming squatters rights in an empty house.*





# Feet for hire

The youth of Britain are using their feet as well as their hearts to help the aged. They "hire" them out to sponsors, public spirited people willing to back these young enthusiasts on a WALK. And the proceeds go to Help the Aged.

For the young, walking is easy—an easy way to raise money for those to whom every step may be an agony. When you're an old, homeless victim of war in places like Nigeria and Vietnam you have to walk—hopelessly, aimlessly, in search of food and help.

Help you may never get.

And in Britain there are one and a quarter million old people living alone—in squalor and in fear—urgently needing assistance, particularly in housing.

This is why groups of young people all over the country are organizing walks. Finding sponsors who pay them at the rate of 6d. and more a mile each to undertake really marathon hikes. Hikes which can save the starving aged overseas or provide housing and comfort for some desperate old dear right now.

For full details as to how to organize a walk please write to:

HELP THE AGED, ROOM R1,  
139 Oxford Street, London W.1.

**Youth Help the aged**

In Notting Hill today, thousands of families still live in decaying multi-occupied houses, too many people paying too much rent for too few rooms. The schools remain overcrowded and ill-equipped. The children have nowhere to play but the gutter; the social amenities are utterly inadequate. Into this area have come successive generations of immigrants—from Ireland, from Europe and in the last 15 years from the Commonwealth. Typically, these newcomers have been forced by their jobs to live near the centre of London: unable through low income to afford a mortgage and buy their own home, ineligible through their recent arrival for Council housing, barred by their large families, their class origins or their colour from the more desirable accommodation—these new arrivals have been forced to seek shelter in multi-occupied, privately rented flats. The local authority, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, have built fewer houses than any other London Borough, and own only 6% of the housing stock. They have failed to stamp out racketeering landlords, turned a blind eye to overcrowding, and let property pass without hindrance from one speculative landlord to another. It is not surprising that these attitudes have given to many people in Notting Hill an almost unshakeable feeling of hopelessness. Despairing after a few totally fruitless attempts to get something done, they are bitterly cynical of the political parties, the do-gooders and the authorities alike, and convinced that nothing can be done.

## Tragic failure

It is equally understandable that in this situation, anything which seems to make life even worse will be received with hostility. So the coloured immigrants who flowed into Notting Hill in the 1950's became the target for the anger of the host community. In the autumn of 1958 that feeling exploded in the "race riots"—violent outbursts from an inflamed and insecure white community against the disillusioned immigrants who had come here with the feeling that they were coming to their homeland. The tragic failure in 1958 was of those groups in the community who could mediate between the races—the multi-racial churches, youth groups, political parties or community centres. They failed because they did not exist: there were no significant community organisations which cut across the racial lines. Almost alone, Donald Chesworth, who was then an L.C.C. Councillor for North Kensington, was determined that some response should be made to this crisis. Amongst other steps he persuaded Lord Soper that the Methodist Church should make a radical initiative in Notting Hill, and



the result was the formation of the Methodist Group ministry in the area in 1960.

When David Mason, the first member of the Group ministry, started work in the area in 1960, he rapidly saw the need to create an independent forum which could bring together the many different agencies and create some kind of collective voice for the community. Since those early days the Notting Hill Social Council has built up a reputation as a respected pressure group for the area, as the pioneer of a number of useful projects, and as a forum for almost all the agencies working in the area. Perhaps the most significant result of this work has been the way in which the Social Council, the Methodist Church with its large multi-racial congregation, the Adventure Playground in Telford Road, and the specially appointed West Indian social worker with the Citizens' Advice Bureau, have made racialism an illegitimate *public* response to the problems of the community. In this sense the Social Council in Notting Hill seems to have had a similar effect to the Sparkbrook Association in a twilight zone of Birmingham. They have articulated a collective voice for the community which defines the problems in terms of bad housing, social neglect and bureaucratic insensitivity, but not in terms of race.

The Social Council, however, has never claimed to be representative of more than the professional workers in the area. The very fact of meeting on a Monday morning excludes those who are forced to be in ordinary employment elsewhere at those times: although the membership ranges from Conservative Councillors to militant activists, the people of North Kensington themselves are not represented there. Typically those people have no faith in any of the agencies: they feel angry and bitter, but see no way in which they can do anything to help themselves. Even the redevelopment scheme, if ever it comes, will be seen as yet another imposed solution. "They" have decided—the house will come down, they will be moved somewhere else, the few shreds of community feeling will be torn away. But in no way will the people themselves have chosen where they want to live, in what kind of flat and with what sort of amenities. They may see it as a "lucky break" or the "last straw", but they will definitely *not* see it as something which they have done for themselves.

### A better place

In human terms perhaps that is the most crucial experience of all. Therefore the next stage in the work in Notting Hill should be to build up local community groups where the

people of the area can come together to try and tackle the problems of the community. This may mean offering advice on housing problems, running a play project or campaigning to change the Council policy. It is succinctly expressed in the aims of the Notting Hill People's Association—"to make Notting Hill a better place to live in". In groups like this the role of those with professional skills or organising experience is primarily to build, buttress and sustain the group: the lawyer will provide free legal advice, the architect will enable local people to express their opposition to the Council's plans by advancing their own plans. The politically articulate should not become the "leaders" or the "representatives" of the community, but the catalytic influence in enabling the local groups to throw up their own leaders.

One criticism of the old settlements was that by drawing all the activities of the community within their orbit they tended to establish their own centrality and leadership, rather than stimulating indigenous community leaders. If that is the goal, then the relevant pattern of work will be focussed outside the community centre (whether that be a settlement or a Mark), and in the neighbourhood. The contribution of those who deliberately move to an area will be that of *resource*—offering the specialist skills, the resources and the experience which will make it possible for the deprived community to "answer back". The measure of their success will be the speed with which they become dispensable.

The front of Mark 1. Notting Hill.

Photo: Bob Broeder.





## newspoint

# THEY STRENGTHENED LINKS WITH TOC H OVERSEAS

Toc H members who have the opportunity of travelling can do much to strengthen the links that bind our far-flung Movement together and we have received interesting reports from two Women's Association world travellers. Stella Fisher, of Worthing, recently returned from Australia and Marjorie Rorke, of Streatham Branch, spent three months last autumn in North America.

Stella Fisher was entertained by a great many individual Toc H members and also had the opportunity of visiting the Victor Harbour Branch, "which is unique in that their meeting room is one of the rooms on the station platform"; the Branch at Renmark, 160 miles from Adelaide in the heart of the fruit-growing country, "where the temperature suddenly went up to 107 degrees"; and "a meeting of general members, office holders and representatives in Adelaide". At each of these meetings Stella was invited to show her slides of Toc H parties on Iona, Central Council meetings at Swanwick and Toc H activities in England generally and great interest was shown in these. Stella adds that the Women's Branches in Worthing are determined to maintain the links with Australia that she has forged. "Broadwater have renewed their link with Renmark and Worthing Central are hoping to link with Victor Harbour."

"Having read in a previous issue of *Point Three* that Montreal had a very lively and friendly Branch," writes Marjorie Rorke, "I got in touch with Dorothy Smith, the Secretary. My husband and I were entertained right

royally by the Branch in Dorothy's home. We talked about their Branch, their jobs and their difficulties in being so far away from the rest of the Family. We in England do not realise how fortunate we are in having Branches near enough to us for real fellowship and should avail ourselves of it more. I had taken over colour slides of All Hallows, the Old House and some of the

jobs we do in Streatham Branch, which were greatly enjoyed. The Branch in Montreal is busy making dressings for the hospital, which seems to be a pretty big job, and they also work with retarded children."

The link thus forged is also being maintained and Streatham remembered Montreal especially during the World Chain of Light.

## A Right Mixture!



Alfreton Branch, Derby, are well known for their racy stage reviews. Here some of the cast stand still for a minute during a show at the local hall. 28 shows were produced in 1968.

## FREE DRAW TICKETS AT OLD PEOPLE'S DINNER

Dartford men's and women's Branches this year gave an original twist to their annual dinner for old people in the Borough. Each of the 70 guests received a free draw ticket.

Several prizes were given and the holder of the winning number received the ingredients for a dinner for two. This, we are assured, was no reflection on the excellent meal provided that evening.

## One Hundred Flashing Lights

Barkingside Branch have now installed 100 flashing lights in their scheme to bring immediate assistance to old people who are confined to their homes. Loughton Branch nearby are a close second having installed 75 lamps.

## Point Three Correspondents

*Point Three* has invited Districts to appoint Correspondents to keep the magazine in touch with Branch and District activities. This will enable us to increase the space devoted to local news as well as strengthening the links between *Point Three* and membership.

It is too early to give any idea of the final response to this invitation but already 28 Correspondents have been appointed.



## Cold feet get warm reception in Sikh Temple

by Marjorie Berry

Two Indian friends of my nephew's invited us to visit the recently opened Sikh Temple in Wolverhampton. When we arrived we had to take off our shoes and leave them in a cloakroom. Then we walked on a red carpet the length of the hall to a gilded canopy where an ancient Indian sat reading from a large coloured book with another man standing behind him flicking a fly whisk. Members of the congregation put gifts of money, food or material on a highly coloured carpet in front of the canopy and from time to time poor or needy came up and took whatever they needed. One small boy with holes in his socks made a number of trips for milk, butter and sugar. After the reading there was a short address. The young man who gave the address introduced a Mr. Harley from the YMCA. Then to my horror he came over to me and asked me to say a few words. I was sitting cross-legged on the floor among the women—the men sat on the opposite side of the hall.

I was afraid to refuse the invitation to speak in case I offended them. My words were few but apparently acceptable for when I returned to my place one of the women tapped me on the back and said "that is good". The young man kindly explained some of the ceremony to me. Then we went into a small room and met the Indian Commissioner from Birmingham and drank a cup of sweet tea-cum-coffee.

One result is that two of the Sikhs are coming to Penn (W.A.) Branch to tell the members about the Sikh religion—and seemed very pleased to be asked.

## A JAR AT THE LOCAL

This is a jar with a difference for it is filled with pennies and silver amounting to £8. The money was given by regular customers at the "Anchor Inn" in aid of the Toc H blind club at Barnoldswick, Colne, Lancs. With members of the club are (extreme left) Reg and Vera Parker, the hosts at the Inn.

Photo: Craven Herald and Pioneer.

## TOC H LOSES QUIZ CHALLENGE AT OLYMPIA

An innovation at the "New Year Show" at Olympia, previously called the "Boys' and Girls' Exhibition" but now renamed to attract a more adult audience, was a quiz based on the television programme University Challenge. Toc H submitted a team chosen from members in Surrey, South & West London and did extremely well in its round with a Scouts and Guides team, winning by 280 points to 190. The team was Michael Redhead (Godalming and Oxford), Kathy Nairne (Cobham and Oxford) who supplied the glamour, and

an international member, Nelson Mogola (Zambia and Mark XX). The reserve was Lee Yock Suan (Singapore and Mark XX) who, we understand, was relieved just to act as photographer and cheer leader to the banner waving Toc H members in the *Daily Mail* arena where the challenge was held.

Michael Redhead was in brilliant form, hardly missing a question during the 30 minute quiz. But our score was not good enough to beat a team from the YMCA who won the competition with 350 points.

## APRIL FOOLS' DAY COMPETITION

Toc H has always prided itself on its ability to laugh at itself. The Editors of *Point Three* announce a special Toc H April Fools' Day Competition for the best, true, humorous stories about any aspect of Toc H. Jot down any incident that made you laugh at your Branch or District Team meeting, on your jobs, during your Project, or in your Mark, and send it to us.

1st Prize £3. 2nd Prize £2. 3rd Prize £1.

Entries, which may be submitted by individuals or jointly by Branches, Marks or groups, should be kept as brief as possible. If you so wish, they may take the form of cartoons. We can provide the artist.

The Editors' decision will be final and no correspondence can be entered into.

The winning entries will be published in *Point Three* and the Editors also reserve the right to print any other entries.

Entries must be sent so as to reach the Toc H Editorial Office, 41 Trinity Square, London E.C.3., not later than the first post on Tuesday, April 1, 1969.

Get YOUR entry off to day.





# FIVE YEAR PLAN FOR THE SOUTHERN AREA

"We believe that courageous and long-term planning are called for if Toc H is going to use to the best advantage the tremendous contribution that we know it has to make." So say the newly formed Southern Area Joint Advisory Team in commending to all Branches of Toc H and the Women's Association in the Area the adoption of a five-year plan. The document distributed by the Team outlines the plan's purpose in these words: "We want to convert words and visions into creative and effective reality. If Toc H has lost some of its first sparkle, as many fear it has, we want to go back to the beginning and rekindle it until it shines so brightly again that it illumines and warms all whom it touches."

The Team stress the need for training, in particular the training that takes place through discussion within the Branch. As a basis for discussion they recommend Peter Monie's "Toc H Under Weigh", Mayne Elson's "Rediscovering Toc H" and Alec Churcher's "Stirring the Mixture". After this course of study they suggest that "members in turn should give a brief talk, or read an essay written by themselves, explaining their own philosophy of the Movement, including their criticisms or doubts about it".

The team outline a programme of action under the heading of stewardship—of time, of talents and of money. "Above all," they say, "try to avoid time, talents and money being frittered away in too many directions at once, so that small offerings of each are doing little or no good in a lot of ways, whereas larger offerings of each might do much good in fewer ways."

Much the same point is made under the heading of "service". "Do not rush in to undertake the first job that comes to your notice. Consider many and arrange your priorities. Decide where you feel, with your resources of time and man-power, you can make the best contribution. If a job snowballs, do not struggle until it breaks down. Seek help

from other Branches, other associations, and if ultimately some other group offers to take over the organisation, so much the better. You are then free to break fresh ground."

The five-year plan is concerned with training, with stewardship, with service and, fourthly, with extension; extension by personal recruiting, by recruitment through service, by arranging for small panels of members "to visit other local organisations to speak about and answer questions on Toc H", and by leaflet distributions "followed shortly by personal visits".

The Team stress that the plan "is not intended to be a set of rules for the future. It is hoped that it will act as guidelines to enable us to formulate a pattern of thinking and planning for the

## The Answer to Racial Prejudice

Exeter (W.A.) Branch hold coffee evenings for people from overseas regularly every two months. "With the university on our doorstep," says Branch member Kathleen Latham, "we feel this is fulfilling a need and is a challenge to us". If the comments of the two Kenyan girls who wrote to us are any guide the evenings seem to be much appreciated by the students. "It was a really happy gathering," wrote the girls, of the first of these evenings, "people of all races, from different backgrounds, and of different religious beliefs, sharing one happy atmosphere of friendship and brotherhood of mankind. Guests met new people and made new friends."

Both men's and women's Branches at Eltham in South East London, are determined to show by example that racial prejudice cannot be tolerated. They recently organised a party to which more than 30 guests from Ceylon, Nigeria, Trinidad, Jamaica, Antigua, Barbados, India, Jordan and Afghanistan were invited.

future. It is hoped that the plan will be something more than a pipe dream; that it will be of real value to help us all to review, refresh and rededicate ourselves".

Finally, we were gratified to note that the Team recommend "regular reading and discussion of articles in *Point Three*".

## How to Explain Toc H in One Breath?

The following is an extract from "A policy statement on Christian Aid and World Development" produced during the "Week of prayer for Christian Unity", and quoted in the South East Regional Newsletter.

"It is our task to confront men with their neighbours everywhere—and especially with those who suffer. It is our task to help them understand what they are doing when they respond to, or turn away from, those neighbours. It is our task to provide channels which have both integrity and competence, for the response that is evoked."

Three short sentences that neatly wrap up all that we stand for. How come we have never thought of something like that?

## RC PRIEST ACCEPTS PADRE INVITATION

By accepting an invitation from Minster Branch to become their Padre, Father Paulinus levers, the local Roman Catholic priest, has unknowingly stepped into the spotlight of unique achievements for as far as we know he is the first Roman Catholic priest to act as Padre of a Toc H Branch.

Father Paulinus was welcomed into the Branch with another new member, local resident Mrs. Dunn, at a ceremony which took place in the parish hall.

The Toc H Movement has always strived to minimise the differences that separate Christian peoples and we are sure we speak for all our members in extending a special warm word of greeting to the new padre and congratulations to Minster Branch for their demonstration of initiative.

## NEW TOC H GROUP IN BOMBAY

A new Toc H group has been formed at Agripada, near Bombay, according to a letter received from Bombay member Cyril Pasgon. Attendances have averaged over 20 at each of the 10 meetings held so far, all those

attending being young men in their twenties. The main job of the new group is the running of a boys' club, financed by the Bombay Branch, at St. Andrew's Church.



## picture point

Described in *"The Scotsman"* as a unique service, the Dundee T.O.C.H. television station for hospitals continues to make steady progress. Through the generosity of the B.B.C. they have now acquired a video tape recorder complete with van previously used by the Cardiff outside broadcast unit. On the right, a dummy run is staged in the home built studio.

*Photo: "The Scotsman".*



Jessie and Jim Clarke of Maidenhead Branch have always been concerned about the elderly. So concerned that they have sold up their home in Paley Street, where Jim has lived all his life, to buy a 15 roomed guest-house at Combe Martin, Devon, so that old people can enjoy a summer holiday without too much expense.

"They never seem to have a holiday in the season, mainly because they can't afford it," said Jim. The House will offer special cheap holidays to members of the Pleasant Afternoon club in Paley Street. Before they left they were presented with a travelling clock by Mrs. E. Bennett, the oldest member of the club at 91 years.

*Photo: Maidenhead Advertiser.*





# *“I’m Very Well Thank You”*

West Wickham Women’s Branch received this poem from Toc H friends in Australia and so many have asked for copies that we thought our readers would like to see it reproduced here. The author is unknown. Members who would like copies can buy them, price 6d., from West Wickham Branch who now use it for fund raising.

There is nothing the matter with me,  
I’m healthy as I can be,  
I have arthritis in both my knees,  
And when I talk—I talk with a wheeze,  
My pulse is weak, and my blood is thin,  
But—I’m awfully well for the shape I’m in.

Arch supports I have for my feet,  
Or I wouldn’t be able to be on the street,  
Sleep is denied me night after night,  
But every morning I find I’m alright.  
My memory is failing, my head’s in a spin,  
But—I’m awfully well for the shape I’m in.

The moral is this—as my tale I unfold,  
That for you and for me who are growing old,  
It’s better to say “I’m fine” with a grin,  
Than to let folks know the shape we are in.  
How did I know that my Youth is all spent?  
Well, my “get up and go” has got up and went.

But I really don’t mind when I think with a grin  
Of all the grand places my “get up” has bin.  
Old age is golden I’ve heard it said,  
But sometimes I wonder as I get into bed,  
With my ears in the drawer, my teeth in a cup  
My eyes on the table until I get up.

Ere sleep overtakes me I say to myself,  
Is there anything else I could lay on the shelf?  
When I was young my slippers were red,  
I could kick my heels right over my head,  
When I was older my slippers were blue,  
But still I could dance the whole night through.

Now I am old my slippers are black,  
I walk to the store and puff my way back,  
I get up each morning and dust off my wits,  
And pick up the paper to read the “Obits”,  
If my name is still missing I know I’m not dead.  
So I have a good breakfast—and go back to bed.

---

## CONSTITUTIONALLY SPEAKING

NANCY GRIFFITHS *S.E. Regional Staff*

When the long-awaited Supplemental Charter and Bye-laws for the integrated Movement are finally law and being discussed by Councillors and members, it might be helpful if two points are borne in mind.

The existing Royal Charter is not being swept away and replaced by something entirely new—it is being altered, amended and added to, and a certain amount of the history of the two Movements will continue to be set out in the Charter, hence some of the paragraphs refer to the past.

The other point is that, although attempts have been made to simplify wording, the mysteries of the Law have prevented this in some places. So often what is administratively admirable is not legally possible.

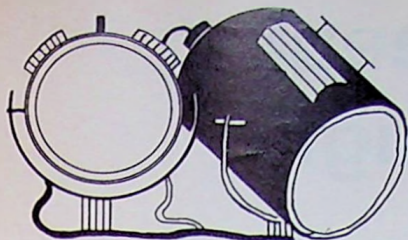
The aim has been to keep the Constitution as flexible as possible, and to put any matter which may require amendment in the light of

experience in years to come, into the Bye-laws rather than in the Royal Charter.

At this time of change-over and experiment, when different parts of the country are at varying stages of Joint working, it is felt that “rules” should be kept to the minimum, but guide-lines offered where possible. The details of day-to-day working are under discussion, and Headquarters welcomes any comments on experience gained in Joint working at various levels, so that a picture of the best methods can be built up—remembering that “the written code kills, the spirit gives life”.

Perhaps the best—and most important—reading in the Supplemental Charter are the Objects of the Corporation—and every member might find it helpful to read them at regular intervals.





# spotlight

## On Thurrock



One thing that doesn't happen too often in Thurrock Branch, it appears, is for members to sink into the nearest armchair and complain about the "lack of opportunity these days for a Toc H job." If ever there was a Branch to show others how to tackle local community problems then surely this must be it.

There is little we can add to these pictures sent to us by Ivan Griffin, except perhaps to tell you that the Bedford coach and Austin mini-bus, both owned by the Branch and advertising Toc H, hardly have time for the tyres to cool off before they are used for another run. During one week in 1968 they were used to transport invalid John Jay to Waterloo station, where he was to catch a train to a Southsea Convalescence Home; regular trips of 20 miles taking Invalid Association members to meetings in Grays; another journey of 35 miles to South Ockenden for Averley Handicapped Club is also undertaken weekly; a trip to Clacton, where handicapped people are entertained twice a year at a flat owned by two ladies of Grays Branch and a host of other journeys—and remember this happens in a typical Thurrock Branch week.

The vehicles clocked over 12,000 miles during the year, while other members were organising dances, running a film unit for house bound people, discussing a mobile library unit with local government officials and safely transporting a party of people, including Red Cross workers, through badly flooded areas last September.

In addition they have established a permanent relationship with many friends and helpers, especially their volunteer drivers, Rotary, Round Table, the Red Cross and St. John's Ambulance Association.

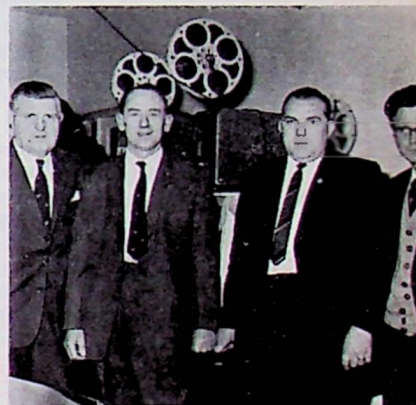
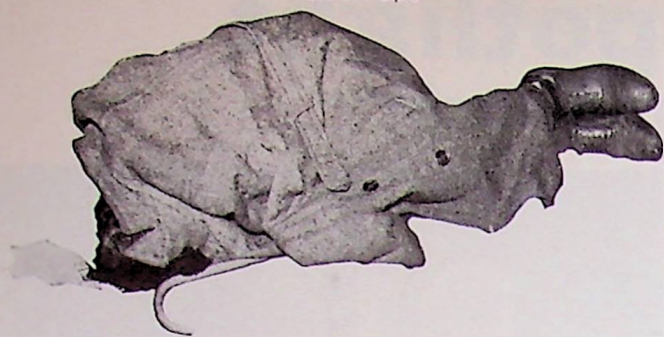




Photo: Mirrorpic



# sleeping rough in Brum

On the night of January 18, 1969, 42 people slept rough in the inner ring area of Birmingham. This is the conclusion drawn from a survey conducted by Toc H at the request of Birmingham's Christian Action Centre. And the compilers of the survey report say that this is a minimum figure and that the true numbers were probably considerably higher.

The Christian Action Centre is concerned with single, homeless men and at present provides an advice service. It is considering setting up a residential house and the survey was designed to help reach a decision on the need for such a house.

Prior to the survey itself five pilot surveys were carried out in an attempt to pinpoint the places most likely to be used by men sleeping rough and the plan was also discussed with a Church Army Captain and an official of the Ministry of Social Security.

The actual survey was conducted by a group of 60 volunteers drawn from, in addition to Toc H, IVS, St. Mary's Church, Birmingham University, Birmingham School of Music, St. Peter's College and Westhill College. "From 6.30 p.m. to 3 a.m.," says the report, "surveyors were stationary either in derelict houses or in cars. Between them they covered all places known to be used for sleeping after the pilot surveys of early January. From 3 a.m. to 5 a.m. 12 persons

conducted a foot search of the city centre area, while all other areas were systematically searched by groups in cars or on foot."

The group found a total of 29 people who spent the whole night in one spot and a further 13 were observed wandering about. Of those who were stationary 16 were in derelict buildings, two in open spaces, five in toilets, three on New Street station and three in an all night cafe. "Of these, only three were noticeably drunk," states the report, "and of these three, one was drinking surgical spirit. One of those sleeping in a derelict house was probably drinking methylated spirits. The average estimated age was 40, not counting the three young men who spent the night in the all night cafe. At all times of observing the cafe it was full but surveyors could only guarantee that three men slept the night there." A further 12 men were seen walking "who by virtue of their appearance and/or luggage were suspected of being homeless".

The report concludes that on the night in question 42 people, of whom one was a woman, definitely spent the night rough and a further 12 people probably did the same. The writers of the report add: "On the evidence of the pilot surveys we feel that the figure of 42 is not exceptional and we are very conscious that the figure we achieved is only a minimum figure for the night in question."

## BUSY DAYS AND SLEEPLESS NIGHTS!

*An extract from the Slough Joint District minutes suggests pandemonium in the Bourne End Women's Branch. It says "attendances at meetings have varied due to new and expected babies." Looks as if the members are suffering from a "nappy rush."*



## SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) by the first day of the month preceding publication. The charge is 6d. a word (minimum 6s.). "Point Three", Toc H, 41 Trinity Square, London, E.C.3.

**FARMER WANTED.** The principal of Madras Christian College is seeking a Farmer with special knowledge of stock who would go out as a volunteer for a period of two years to develop the College farm.

Anyone interested please get in touch with the International Secretary—Crutched Friars House, London E.C.3 who will supply further details.

**GUERNSEY C.I.** Good homely fare in Toc H family. H & C in all rooms. Midweek bookings accepted. Terms BB and EM £9 9s. per week. Mrs. P. Saunders, Petherton, Tertre Lane, Vale. Tel. Guernsey 44756 (STD 0481).

**WANTED TO EXCHANGE.** A Toc H member in Queensland wishes to exchange Australian, N.Z., Papuan and Pacific Islands stamps for U.K. or British Commonwealth. No limit on quantities. Write R. J. Morris, Box 2056, GPO Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

**WARDEN MANOR.** Book now for your summer holiday amid unspoilt country on North Kent coast. Old world atmosphere. Toc H spirit. 1969 season May 23 (Whitsun) to May 31, and July 12 through to September 14. Cost from £7 15s. to £8 15s. per week. Tennis, table tennis, putting and entertainments free. Bathing at Warden Bay nearby. Garage. Bus service direct from railway station to Manor door. Write: Secretary (Warden Manor), 1 Warrior Square Terrace, St. Leonards-on-Sea.

**BALL PENS FOR "FUND RAISING".** Your Branch name, etc. die-stamped on each ball pen. We are the largest wholesalers and die-stampers of ball pens in the United Kingdom—based on this fact, we can offer your Branch competitive prices—speedy service—quality. Send today for free samples and details, THOMPSON & CREIGHTON, "Ball Pen Suppliers", 202, Heaton Road, Newcastle on Tyne, NE6 5JJ.

**ADVERTISING PENCILS,** superb Ball-Pens, Combs, Brushes, etc., gold-stamped Branch name, raise funds quickly, easily. Details—Northern Novelties, Bradford 2.



### BRUGES, BELGIUM.

Hotel Jacobs welcomes Toc H parties and individual visitors to this lovely old city. Within easy reach of other famous cities of art, and of coast. Good food and comfortable accommodation in friendly atmosphere. Pleasant restaurant, bar and lounge. Parking. English spoken. Strongly recommended. Write for brochure and terms to Mr. Jules Lietaert, HOTEL JACOBS, Baliastraat 1, Bruges, Belgium.

**WHY NOT USE A  
DISPLAY SPACE  
ON OTHER PAGES?  
RATES ARE VERY  
REASONABLE AND  
IT PAYS TO  
ADVERTISE IN  
point three**



